Serial No.: 10/511,631
Art Unit: 2145
Takatoshi NAKAMURA et al.

Attorney's Docket No.: SUZ0017-US
Page 7

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendment and the following remarks.

Claims 1-30 were pending in this application. In this Amendment, Applicants have amended claims 1, 7, 14, and 17, have canceled claims 2-5, 8-13, 15, 16, and 18-30, and have not added any new claims. Accordingly, claims 1, 6, 7, 14, and 17 will be pending upon entry of this Amendment.

In the Office Action mailed October 3, 2007, the Examiner rejected claims 1-30 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0097322 to Monroe et al. ("Monroe"). Applicant has canceled claims 20-30 without waiver of or prejudice to the subject matter recited therein, therefore rendering the rejections of those claims moot. To the extent that the rejections might still be applied to the currently pending claims, Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections.

Applicants have amended claims 1, 7, 14, and 17 to emphasize a feature of the present invention distinguishable over Monroe that was previously recited in dependent claims of the originally filed application. That feature relates to the use of link destination setting tables to control access by a plurality of terminal devices to a plurality of information gathering devices (*e.g.*, content servers). This novel technique for access control can prevent access concentration to a particular content server and more evenly spread access loads among a plurality of content servers. (*See, e.g.*, page 5, lines 7-14.) In one implementation, the invention can manage access to images gathered by many surveillance cameras monitoring a river. (*See, e.g.*, page 17, line 29 to page 18, line 3.) These access control features were previously recited in originally filed

Serial No.: 10/511,631
Art Unit: 2145
Takatoshi NAKAMURA et al.

Attorney's Docket No.: SUZ0017-US
Page 8

dependent claims 4, 5, 8, 9, 15, 16, 18, and 19. Applicants have amended independent claim 1 to

include the features of dependent claims 4 and 5; have amended independent claim 7 to include

the features recited in dependent claims 8 and 9; have amended independent claim 14 to include

the features recited in dependent claims 15 and 16; and have amended independent claim 17 to

include the features recited in dependent claims 18 and 19. Applicants have also accordingly

canceled claims 4, 5, 8, 9, 15, 16, 18, and 19. Applicants respectfully submit that the

amendments to independent claims 1, 7, 14, and 17 cannot necessitate new grounds of rejection

since the amended features appeared in originally filed dependent claims, and requests that any

further rejections of the independent claims be made in a non-final action. Applicants have also

canceled claims 2, 3, and 10-13, without waiver of or prejudice to the subject matter recited

therein.

The novel access control feature of the present invention is described in detail, for

example, at page 16, line 9 to page 18, line 12 of the present specification and in the

corresponding Figures 11-12. In particular, Figure 12 illustrates a representative link destination

setting table that is used for access control, *e.g.*, associating channels and links (link destination

URLs). A link destination setting table is held in advance in a server. The server holds a link

destination setting table for each of the terminal devices, and generally, each pattern of a link

destination setting table defined for each terminal device can differ from each other. A link

destination setting table contains information to identify a linked information gathering device

that is accessible from the terminal device specified in the link destination setting table. The

server sends a link destination setting table to each of the terminal devices.

Serial No.: 10/511,631
Art Unit: 2145
Takatoshi NAKAMURA et al.

Attorney's Docket No.: SUZ0017-US
Page 9

Using the link destination setting table, a terminal device selects at least one information

gathering device to be accessed, among the linked information gathering devices, and sends

information based on the result of the selection, *i.e.*, a link request, to the server. The terminal

device sends to the server the link request to access the information gathering device specified, in

the link destination setting table, as a link destination. In controlling access by the terminal

device, the server compares the link request with the link destination setting table that is held

therein, and determines whether they match each other. If they match, the server permits linking

between the terminal device and the information gathering device. If they do not match, linking

is not permitted.

Thus, the inventions recited in amended claims 1, 7, 14, and 17 provide access control to

the terminal device using link destination setting tables as described above. Such access control

ensures that each of the terminal devices link only to the information gathering device that is

specified in the link destination setting table. Thus, this access control makes it possible, in

delivering pieces of streaming video image information, to prevent access concentration to a

particular information gathering device. Monroe does not teach or suggest that access control.

Indeed, according to Monroe, a server always permits access upon a request.

Applicants therefore respectfully submit that amended independent claims 1, 7, 14, and

17 are patentable over the prior art. In addition, Applicants respectfully submit that dependent

claim 6 is also patentable due at least to its dependence on an allowable base claim and for the

additional features recited therein.

In view of the foregoing, all of the claims in this case are believed to be in condition for

allowance. Should the Examiner have any questions or determine that any further action is

Serial No.: 10/511,631
Art Unit: 2145
Takatoshi NAKAMURA et al.
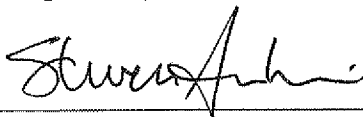
Attorney's Docket No.: SUZ0017-US
Page 10

desirable to place this application in even better condition for issue, the Examiner is encouraged

to telephone Applicants' undersigned representative at the number listed below.

PAUL, HASTINGS, JANOFSKY & WALKER LLP
875 15th Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20005
Tel: 202/551-1700

Respectfully submitted,

Date: April 3, 2008

By: _____ #43 475

FOR: Michael Bednarek
Registration No. 32,329

MB/SPA/ggb
Customer No. 36183